

# Dr. John Zerwas

## Biography

Representative John Zerwas, M.D. proudly represents the citizens of House District 28 in the Texas House of Representatives. House District 28 is made up of a diverse mix of urban, suburban, and rural populations in Waller County, Wharton County and western Fort Bend County. District 28 is currently one of the fastest growing regions in the State of Texas.

During his tenure in the legislature, Representative Zerwas has focused on defending private property rights for the citizens of District 28 by staunchly opposing the Trans-Texas Corridor. As a member of the Appropriations committee, he ensured that Texas citizens received the largest property tax cut in the history of the state. Representative Zerwas also worked to increase transparency for health consumers and sought to save lives by updating our organ donation laws. In June 2011, Dr. Zerwas passed legislation designed to save Texas more than \$400 million over the 2012-2013 biennium by making Medicaid more cost-effective and expanding Medicaid managed care. The measure also allows doctors to partner with hospitals and other health care groups to reach better outcomes. In the July 2009 and July 2011 issues of Texas Monthly, Representative Zerwas was named one of the "Ten Best Legislators" in Texas for his work during the 81st and 82nd Legislative Sessions.

This session, Representative Zerwas served on the House Appropriations Committee as Chair of the Health and Human Services subcommittee, also known as Article II of the state budget. In addition to serving on Appropriations, Representative Zerwas again served on the Conference Committee for Senate Bill 1, the state budget for the biennium. He was also appointed by Speaker Straus to serve on the Public Health Committee and Calendars Committee. These committee assignments have allowed him to bring a unique perspective to the Texas Legislature.

A physician for more than 30 years, Representative Zerwas is one of three doctors in the Texas House of Representatives at a time when Health and Human Services is one of the fastest-growing areas of spending. Dr. Zerwas is the 1st Vice President of the American Society of Anesthesiology and currently practices anesthesiology at Greater Houston Anesthesiology, a group practice he helped start over 10 years ago. He previously served as the President of the Memorial Hermann Health Network Providers and Chief Medical Officer of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System.

Representative Zerwas has long demonstrated a strong commitment to faith, family, and community. He helped form the First Colony Church of Christ, and was one of its first deacons. John also worked with the Boy Scouts of America to establish a troop in the Pecan Grove area. In the past he was very active in his children's high school booster clubs and served two terms as president of his homeowners' association.

John and his wife, Cindy, graduated from Bellaire High School in 1973 and were married in 1978. After graduating from the University of Houston, Representative Zerwas earned his Doctorate in Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in 1980 and started a full-time private practice in 1985. John and Cindy have four children, John Jr., Joseph, daughter-in-law Emily, Brandon, Sherry, son-in-law Matthew, and two grandchildren, Isabella and Matthew.

*last updated on 07/22/2011*